

01/23/02



Vinson & Elkins
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

01-25-02

VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P.
2300 FIRST CITY TOWER
1001 FANNIN STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-6766
TELEPHONE (713) 758-2222
FAX (713) 758-2346
www.velaw.com

Avelyn Ross Broughton
Direct Dial 512-495-8411
Direct Fax 512-236-3218
abroughton@velaw.com

PTO
10/055726
JAN 11 U.S.



January 23, 2002

ATTN: BOX PATENT APPLICATION
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

"EXPRESS MAIL" LABEL NO. EL367135351US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: January 23, 2002
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING
DEPOSITED WITH THE United States Postal Service
"Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service on the
date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant
Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.

Re: United States Patent Application for "A Method and Apparatus for Preventing
Nitrogen Interference in Pyro-electrochemical Methods"- John R. Rhodes
Attorney Docket No.: SPE503/4-6CIPUS

Dear Sirs:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a patent application that includes a 29-page patent specification including 68 claims and an abstract, 5 figures on 5 sheets, and an Initial Information Data Sheet. The specification constitutes the application of John R. Rhodes.

Please note that this application is filed without an inventor's Declaration and Assignment, a Declaration Claiming Small Entity Status, a Power of Attorney, and filing fees. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) and (d), the Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the United States Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) be sent to the undersigned Applicant's representative.

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Avelyn Ross Broughton
Reg. No. P-51,174

1817:5588

Enclosures

253810_1.DOC